

ELECTRONIC NOTARY SERVICE

ABSTRACT

5 A method, program, and system for notarizing and verifying documents via a distributed
computer network are provided by the present invention. The invention includes creating an
electronic version of the document on a client computer in the network, which is then encrypted
and stored on a secure server in the computer network, wherein the stored electronic document
may be retrieved by any client in the computer network. The signing party is then notified of the
10 electronic document's identity and directed to the location of a certified notary within the signing
party's geographic vicinity. The signing party visits the notary and retrieves the electronic
document on the notary's client computer. The signing party then electronically signs the
document using an electronic writing pad. The notary verifies the transaction and affixes his
electronic signature to the document and also affixes an electronic image of his notary seal to the
15 document and saves it on the server. Any certified notary in the network may then retrieve the
signed, notarized document.